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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
Missoula, MT 59812
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Sept. 3, 1993

MONTECH VISITS EASTERN MONTANA FOR SEMINAR, PUBLIC FORUM

MISSOULA --

Helpful technology, community development and improved access for Montanans with disabilities will be the focus Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 15-16, when the University of Montana-based MonTECH Program holds public meetings in Glendive and Wolf Point.

The Glendive seminar, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Dawson County High School auditorium, will discuss community development and improved access for rural Montanans with disabilities. Presenters will include MonTECH director Peter Leech and Jim DeJong, project director for the Great Plains ADA Project at the University of Missouri, Columbia, one of the technical centers for implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The seminar is intended for people with disabilities and their families; providers of services to people of all ages who have disabilities; and public officials who are concerned with the issues facing Montanans with disabilities. The session will focus on empowerment of people with disabilities, both on the individual and systems levels.

In Wolf Point, a consumer forum is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at United Dakota Presbyterian Church. The forum will focus on local access to technology and the results of a recent statewide survey, conducted by MonTECH last spring, on assistive technology devices and services in Montana. The session will be conducted by MonTECH staff and representatives of North Central Independent Living Center in Great Falls.

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The session will provide an opportunity for people with disabilities, their families, service providers and public officials to share their concerns and ideas. Discussion will focus on the importance of assistive devices as a way to increase the independence of people with disabilities.

To sign up for the forum, call MonTECH, 1-800-732-0323, or North Central Independent Living Services, 1-800-823-6245.

Interested individuals can sign up for the seminar by calling either number listed above, Action for Eastern Montana, 365-3364, or Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow, 1-800-669-6319.

Assistance with travel costs is available to help people with disabilities and their families attend both sessions; call MonTECH to arrange for assistance or a sign-language interpreter.

MonTECH is the assistive technology program of the Rural Institute on Disabilities.

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